

# MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

## VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, February 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord, Rich Kuklewicz, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Treasurer/Collector Eileen Seymour; and Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

**Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings February 17, 2026, if available**

Not available

**Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment**

None

### Eileen Seymour, Tax Collector

- **Request for retroactive pay for Assistant Treasurer Charlene Langenback for step increase granted on 1/26/26 by the Selectboard. Retroactive pay to be back to 7/1/25 in the amount of \$915.03 and will be paid out of the Treasurer/Collector budget**

*Goldman makes the motion to approve the retroactive pay for Assistant Treasurer Charlene Langenback for step increase granted on 1/26/26 by the Selectboard; retroactive pay to be back to 7/1/25 in the amount of \$915.03 plus \$25.79 (one additional week) and will be paid out of the Treasurer/Collector budget. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved.*

*Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Request for approval of Town credit card for Ashley Gough, Board of Health Director, in the amount of \$2,500.00**  
*Goldman makes the motion to approve a Town credit card for Ashley Gough, Board of Health Director, in the amount of \$2,500.00. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

### Matthew Lord, Selectboard Chair

#### Discussion regarding correspondence received from the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts

- Kuklewicz and Goldman feel that we need to focus on the safety and well-being of all Montague citizens, whether they are immigrants, Jews, etc.
- Lord does not want the Town to be sponsoring activities that are antisemitism, or the Town to be fostering an environment where antisemitism thrives.
- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to act on the request from the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and adopt the IHRA definition, which dates to 2016; reject the BDS and Divestment Resolutions; and commit to inclusion. Seconded by Goldman, approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Nay*
- Lord asks Ramsey to find out and let the Board know what the costs for the training that the Jewish Federation has requested will be.

### FY27 Budget Workshop

- Ramsey reviews the updated working budget:
  - Police cruisers will be obtained via Special Article.
  - Budgeted amount for the health insurance is increased by 20%.
- **Review of Financial Special Articles (non-capital)**  
Ramsey and Dobosz review the following Special Articles:
  - **Out of district student placement (Smith Vocational)**
  - **Reseal Unity Skate Park**
  - **Repurpose funds for Montague Center Park**
  - **Carnegie Library Roof Repair**
  - **Police Equipment Purchase**
- A request for Arts and Culture Funding for \$7,500 didn't make it on the agenda. Ramsey will ask the Town Planner to come to a meeting to discuss that request.
- Next Steps:
  - Ramsey will be at the Finance Committee on Wednesday to discuss the Selectboard's budget.
  - CIC is meeting this Wednesday. They will be looking specifically at the Police Chief's capital request for the additional cruiser and the HVAC repairs.

### Topics Not Anticipated within 48 hours/Snow and Ice Spending

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Ramsey states that we have gone into a deficit on our Snow and Ice budget. He will be working with the Town Accountant to pursue a Reserve Fund Transfer.

**Next Meeting**

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:30 PM HYBRID

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*